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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Richard W. Poole, et al.
Appl. No.: 10/684,235
Conf. No.: 3009
Filed: October 13, 2003
Title: GAMING DEVICE WITH MULTI-PURPOSE REELS
Art Unit: 3714
Examiner: Michael W. O'Neill
Docket No.: 112300-1785

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated June 1, 2005. Claims 1 to 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bennett WO 00/32286 ("*Bennett*") or unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of *Bennett*. Claims 1 to 24 were also rejected under U.S. Patent No. 6,270,411 to Gura ("*Gura*") under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicants respectfully disagree with and traverse these rejections.

The Examiner considered the Affidavit filed on February 28, 2005 to be ineffective to overcome the *Bennett* and *Gura* references. In particular, the Examiner considered the evidence insufficient to establish a reduction to practice. Applicants respectfully maintain that *Bennett* and *Gura* are not prior art of the present application. As explained in the prior Response to Office Action, the effective date for *Gura* is the filing date of *Gura* which is September 10, 1999, and the effective date of *Bennett* under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 and 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is its international publication date of June 8, 2000.

Under 37 C.F.R. §1.131(a), an applicant may submit an appropriate oath or declaration to establish invention of the subject matter of the rejected claim prior to the